



J. Jeffrey Munger
Chairperson of the Board

Taxi Licensing Board

William Keogh
Vice Chairperson

Administrative
Offices
149 Church Street
Burlington, VT

Taxi Licensing Board Agenda
Conference Room 1, Burlington Intl Airport
Thursday, December 10, 2015 – 9:08 AM

PRESENT: Jeff Munger (JM), Chair
Bill Keogh (BK), Vice-Chair
LTD Dennis Duffy (DD), BPD
SGT Brad Trombley (BT), BPD
Adam Roof (AR), License Committee Member
Gregg Meyer (GM), Assistant City Attorney
Lori Olberg (LO), City Hall
Isaac Trombley (IT), Airport Representative
Ashley Bryce (AB), Taxi Administration

1. AGENDA

BK amended agenda to add 3.02.5. to discuss an article in Seven Days.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the agenda was amended and adopted.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Nobody spoke.

3. DISCUSSION

3.01. Introduce Sgt. Brad Trombley

DD introduced Sgt. Trombley and explained he will be taking over DD duties with the airport taxi meetings. BT explained he will be at the Airport for the next 12 months.

3.02. Blazer Transportation

AB stated this issue is on the agenda as they are finding all loop holes to bypass their suspension. BK stated we are doing what we can, the BPD is referring to the matters but they are legal within the ordinance. Chris Handy had dropped off at the airport but he gave the customer a commentary ride. GM stated the only thing BPD can do is look further into the cases but the Taxi Board has little they can do. JM believed the re-write of the ordinance needed changes so there are not loop holes to go through. We have no enforcement and until then we can't do anything. GM stated Blazer licenses are handed in, but they can still function outside of Burlington. Board agreed we need more enforcement for taxi drivers. JM stated we cannot have just a part time officer, taxi drivers are 24 hours, 7 days a week. DD responded police officers will still be enforcing but the taxi enforcer will be able to look in depth more for the board and administration concerns.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the evidence was accepted and placed on file.

3.02.5. Seven Days Article

BK the article highlights some needs for the new taxi ordinance when it is written. AR considered what if they talk to other towns about the suspension of the Blazer Company. DD responded that most other towns do not have an ordinance for this entity. An email from a board member was sent to Seven Days for the article, JM believes when they send emails for updates for board members that they should not be sent outside of the board.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the article was accepted and placed on file.

3.03. JJ Transit LLC, Vehicle Leasing Specialist

AB brings up that Blazer drivers have changed to JJ Transit LLC, and they are now over charging customers through that entity. That she wanted to inform the board that will be on the next agenda. IT states he has information that they are overcharging as well and we will bring that up in a hearing. Also Ricky Handy was trying to buy a punch card from the airport through one of his drivers that works now for JJ Transit. GM, IT and AB are going to look over the evidence and see if they can have a case.

4. MINUTES

4.01. Taxi Licensing Board 08/13/2015

On Motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the minutes were adopted as is.

5. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the Taxi Licensing Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.



Taxi Licensing Appeals Panel

J. Jeffrey Munger
Chairperson of the Board

William Keogh
Vice Chairperson

Administrative
Offices
149 Church Street
Burlington, VT
05401

Taxi Licensing Appeals Panel Agenda Conference Room 1, Burlington Intl Airport Thursday, December 10, 2015 – 9:42 a.m.

PRESENT: See Above
Sarah Parks (SP), Green Cab
Normand Houle (NH), JJ Transit, LLC
Youness Jamil (YJ), Star Cab
Sarmad Abdulrazak (SA), Crown Cab
Farkad Abdulrazak (FA), 89 Taxi
Jassim Jassim (JJ), Champlain Taxi
Ather Jassim (AJ), Royal Taxi

1. AGENDA

GM requested to amend agenda to remove item 4.02 as investigation is already preceding.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the agenda was amended and adopted

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.01. COMMUNICATION: Kelly Colling, Director of
Operations, Burlington
International Airport; Youness
Jamil, Star Cab; RE: Complaint

*waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the communication was accepted and place on file.

3. TAXI DRIVER APPEAL HEARING

3.01. Halina Nicholson
Halina Nicolson did not attend the meeting.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the denial is affirmed.

3.02. Sarah Parks

She appeared on behalf of her appeal. GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Taxi Appeal Panel and swore her in for testimony.

Background:

The Applicant self-reported a DUI in 2003.

Testimony:

SP stated she received this in 2003 when she turned 21 in Wisconsin. She is looking to work extra hours after her full time job at Reuben James.

No further testimony was given.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went into executive session at 9:52 a.m.to deliberate.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went out of executive session at 9:53 a.m.

3.03. Normand Houle
He appeared on behalf of his appeal. GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Taxi Appeal Panel and swore him in for testimony.

Background:

The Applicant received DD1 in 2014, licenses suspended 90 days in 2015.

Testimony:

NH stated he has been clean and sober from alcohol. He learned a lot from the crash course and his counseling. BK inquired that the paperwork shows NH received suspension in March of 2015. NH stated it was from the DD1 in 2014. BK asked what assurances the board has that he will be staying clean. NH stated he had done all his crash courses and that he has learned from this. JM asked if he had his taxi license in 2014. NH Stated yes. JM did you self-report that incident? In the ordinance you are supposed to report. NH stated he did not know, NH was not drinking that day or using marijuana. He blew zeros but when they took blood test it was in his system. AR inquired about customer's safety, how customers will be safe, then asked if he had dependents and is this his only income. NH no dependents and yes to only income. GM who do you work for? NH responded for Blazer, no JJ Transit, he guessed. GM asked why he guessed.

NH answered with I don't know he just told us we are. GM questioned who is he? NH answered he didn't know anything about it, only that they are suspended.

No further testimony was given.

On a motion by Commissioners Roof and Keogh, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went into executive session at 10:03a.m.to deliberate.

On a motion by Commissioners Roof and Keogh, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went out of executive session at 10:08 a.m.

4. TAXI VIOLATORS

4.01. Donald St. Onge

Did not attend meeting.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof referred back to airport for staff for solution.

4.02. Youness Jamil

Item Removed.

5. COMPLAINTS

5.01. Youness Jamil; Star Cab, Sarmad Abdulrazak; Crown Cab, Ali Abdulrazak; 89 Taxi

GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Taxi Appeal Panel and swore all members in for testimony. Farkad Abdulrazak was translator for Sarmad Abdulrazak.

YJ began by explaining his side of the altercation. YJ stated he was next to his car praying, when he heard in ready line, first pit, 89 Taxi turning their music up louder and louder he noticed SA was sitting in the car with AA. This was disturbing his prayer. He called an ambassador, Josh, he explained that two people cannot be sitting in one taxi at one time. Josh went and told SA he needed to go back to his car. YJ claimed when SA got out of the car he told his prayer may not be accepted. SA started arguing with him and threatening him. Josh came back and told SA to go back to his car. Then police got involved. One driver witnessed but would not testify he was friends with both.

SA explained his side of the altercation. YJ called Josh to come and get me out of the 89 Taxi, he apologized and got out of car. YJ then started yelling at him about praying. SA says he prays to himself and it's not his business if he prays. Josh was there and YJ started saying words to him. There were a lot cursing words against SA sister and mother. YJ kept trying to make him pray. SA asked why words about his family. YJ then insisted to go out of the airport to fight. SA felt threatened so he called the cops.

DD asked if they have worked together at the airport since. They both stated yes, but SA stated he feels unsafe of YJ. YJ stated they do get along and will be fine. They need to give each space and follow the rules.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went into executive session at 10:34 a.m.to deliberate.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went out of executive session at 10:42 a.m.

5.02. Jassim Jassim; Champlain Taxi, Ather Jassim; Royal Taxi

GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Taxi Appeal Panel and swore all members in for testimony. Farkad Abdulrazak was translator for Ather Jassim.

JJ began by explaining his side of the altercation. In August, he was third in the ready line. He went into the building when he came back out the ready line had two cars that had moved. He moved his car to first, and AJ started honking his horn in the seventh or eighth position. He confronted AJ and requested an answer on why he honked when he was moving. AJ responded "I don't care, if I want to honk I can." JJ expressed there are witnesses but they won't give out name or number because they are afraid of AJ. He later explained another altercation that had occurred after. JJ went into the building to check the flight schedule, when he was coming back out AJ was walking in and staring at him. He asked if everything was ok. Then he exclaimed that AJ started insulting his family and friends.

AJ began to explain his side of the altercation, he pointed out that every side of every story are different. He explained in the August altercation he was not honking his horn at JJ, he was purposely honking at other driver's to move forward. He stated other driver get out to go near the WIFI with their phones. As JJ reported he confronted AJ asked why honk horn? AJ stated he said Usamah, JJ responded with if anyone honks horn from now on he will bury them. After this AJ walked into the building to check schedule, he saw JJ and they began to argue and JJ threatened he had family documents of AJ family and he would use them.

No further testimony on either side.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went into executive session at 11:25 a.m.to deliberate.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went out of executive session at 11:26 a.m.

6. MINUTES

6.01. Taxi Licensing Appeals Panel 08/13/2015

On Motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the minutes were adopted as is.

6.02. Taxi Licensing Appeals Panel 08/31/2015

On Motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the minutes were adopted as is.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the Taxi Licensing Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

